



COMMUNIQUÉ

The 132 Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China call for implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Montreal, 29 September 2011 – At their thirty-fifth annual meeting, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, in adopting in New York on 23 September 2011 their Ministerial Declaration, recognized the important outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP 5) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010 and from 11 to 15 October 2010, respectively, which represent a significant contribution to the comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

The Ministers called for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the overarching biodiversity framework as well as the ongoing efforts aimed at translating the Aichi Targets into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Ministers also took note of the adoption and opening of signature of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from Their Utilization. The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides a unique opportunity to engage the people of the world in the battle to protect life on Earth and Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to spare no efforts for the successful implementation of the objectives of this decade.

In addition, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Multi-Year Plan of Action (MYPA) on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development to be adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, as a major tool at the service of the biodiversity agenda. The ministers also noted with appreciation the positive assessments of the performance of the Secretariat during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

H.E. Mr. Héctor Timerman, Minister for Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship of Argentina and Chair of the Ministerial Meeting, emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, “as a paradigm to replace the traditional concept of ‘aid’, taking into account that the thinking behind this form of cooperation serves to highlight the role of the beneficiaries of cooperation, while acknowledging the associated possibilities to achieve mutual benefits”.

In welcoming the commitment of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the G-77 and China, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ahmed Djoghlaif, stated: “It is fitting that the leaders of most of the rich biodiversity countries take the lead in promoting the successful implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It is also fitting that South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development be promoted as an important tool together with the necessary North-South cooperation for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020.”

On 20 September 2011, at a press conference convened in New York in conjunction with the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, a Memorandum of Cooperation on South-South Cooperation for Biodiversity and Development between the Republic of South Africa and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by Mrs. B.E.E. Molewa, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa.

Group of 77

The Group of 77 was established on 15 June 1964 by 77 developing countries signatories of the “Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries” issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva. Beginning with the first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Algiers from 10 to 25 October 1967, which adopted the Charter of Algiers, a permanent institutional structure gradually developed which led to the creation of Chapters of the Group of 77 with liaison offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna, and the Group of 24 (G-24) in Washington, D.C. Although the members of the G-77 have increased to 132 countries (including China), the original name was retained due to its historic significance. It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations, which provides the means for the countries of the South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system and promote South-South cooperation for development.

Argentina is currently the Chair of the Group of 77 and China for the year 2011. Algeria will be the Chair of the Group for the year 2012.

More information on the Group of 77 can be found at: <http://www.g77.org/doc/>.
